

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0001] More particularly, an object of this invention is to provide a method and equipment for sterilizing objects that may be contaminated with HIV, SARS virus or West-Nile virus, or that may have been touched by a person contaminated with HIV, SARS virus or West-Nile virus. A further object of this invention is to provide a method and equipment for sterilizing objects that may be, or thought to be, contaminated with true fungi and spore-forming bacteria, such as, for example, exosporium-covered *Bacillus-subtilis subtilis* and *Bacillus anthracis*, or that may have been touched by a person contaminated with such microorganisms.